

Customer No. 31,834

Atty. Dkt. No. BR-033 PUS 01

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 41-99 are pending in this application. Claims 62, 66, 70-72 and 76 have been amended. Claims 62, 66 and 76 were amended to correct minor typographical errors. Claims 70-72 were amended to be dependent on method claim 66. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required restriction of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 121. More specifically, the Examiner has required restriction to one of the following groups, as described below:

Group I	Claims 1, 41-69 and 76-99, drawn to a method of preparing a lyophilized matrix.
Group II	Claims 70-73, drawn to an injectable aqueous suspension of microbubbles.
Group III	Claim(s) 75, drawn to a method for diagnostic imaging.

The Examiner asserts that the inventions of Groups I-III do not relate to a single inventive concept as they allegedly lack a common special technical feature in view of US 2002/0031476. Applicants traverse this restriction and in particular disagree with the examiner's position regarding the disclosure of US2002/0031476. However, for the purposes of submitting a complete response, Applicants elect Group I, claims 1, 41-69 and 76-99. Applicants will address the disclosure of US2002/0031476 when and if a rejection is received.

Species Election Requirement

The Examiner has required election of a species of gas and phospholipid.

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In response to the species election requirement, applicants hereby elect, without traverse, the gas C_4F_{10} (perfluorobutane) and the phospholipid dipalmitoyl phosphatidylserine (DPPS).

Applicants identify claims 1, 41-69 and 76-99 as reading upon the elected species. Applicants note that newly dependent claims 70-72 also read on the elected species.

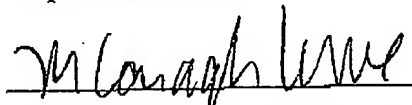
Rejoinder

Applicants note the Examiner's comments regarding rejoinder and request that claims 70-72, which have been amended to be dependent on claim 66, be rejoined at the appropriate time.

No fee is believed to be necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment and Response to Restriction Requirement. However, if any additional fee is necessary, applicant hereby authorizes such fee to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2168.

Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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